

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1410

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0384

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, QA, SA, BA, YS

SUBJ: QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON KING KHALID'S VISIT
AND RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN AND PDRY

1. DURING APRIL 6 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, QATARI FOREIGN
MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI COMMENTED ON A NUMBER
OF SUBJECTS.

2. KING KHALID'S VISIT: ACCORDING SUHAYM, THE FACT OF THE SAUDI
MONARCH'S VISIT TO QATAR AND OTHER NEIGHBORING STATES WAS ITS
MOST IMPORTANT SUBSTANCE. HE SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL
AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS WERE VERY GENERAL, AND, IN RESPONSE TO
SPECIFIC QUERY, REPLIED THAT NO RPT NO TIME FIXED FOR OFTEN-
DISCUSSED MEETING OF GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS. SUHAYM VOLUNTEERED
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THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT PRINCE FAHD WOULD FOLLOW UP ON KING

KHALID'S VISIT IN REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE, ALTHOUGH NO DATES AS YET SPECIFIED. FAHD VISIT, SAID SUHAYM, WOULD BE FOR MORE PRECISE DISCUSSIONS ON GULF AFFAIRS, AND THESE SHOULD BE FACILITATED BY WARM ATMOSPHERIC AFTERGLOW OF THE KING'S SUCCESSFUL TOUR.

2. GOQ-GOB RELATIONS: SUHAYM ACKNOWLEDGE THAT RECENT EXCHANGE OF VISITS AND VERBAL BOUQUETS WERE AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIONS WITH HOPE THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO AMICABLE RESOLUTION OF HWAR ISLAND DISPUTE. HE NOTED THAT MOST OF BOUNDARY DISPUTES IN AREA BETWEEN GULF STATES HAD BEEN RESOLVED, AND IT WAS TIME NOW TO WRAP UP THE CONTROVERSY OVER HWAR ISLAND. SUHAYM STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MOVEMENT ON ACTUAL DISPUTE AS YET, AND WENT ON TO REVIEW WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS UNASSAILABLE RIGHT OF QATARI POSITION. RE SAUDI MEDIATION, SUHAYM CLEARLY INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH SAUDIS INTERESTED IN PROMOTING AMITFBLE RELATIONS AMONG NEIGHBORING STATES, THEY HAD NOT REALLY TAKEN ON MEDIATING ROLE AS YET. IN THIS REGARD, SUHAYM IMPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF GOQ AND GOB COULD RESOLVE DISPUTE ON TEIR OWN.

3. RELATIONS WITH PDRY: AMBASSADOR NOTED APRIL 6 ARRIVAL IN DOHA OF SOUTH YEMENI FOREIGN MINISTER MUHAMMAD MUTIA, AND ASKED WHETHER GOQ WOULD BE FOLLOWING SAUDI LEAD WITH ADEN REGIME. SUHAYM POINTED OUT THAT SAUDIS' "NORMALIZATION" OF RELATIONS WITH SOUTH YEMEN DID NOT AS YET INCLUDE AGREEMENT TO SET UP MYSSIONS OR EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT SAUDIS WOULD BE GOING SLOW, AND THAT PDRY WOULD HAVE TO PROVE ITS "GOOD INTENTIONS", PARTICULARLY IN DHOFAR, BEFORE IT COULD EXPECT TO HAVE FULL FORMAL RELATIONS AND THE EXPECTED FOLLOW ON OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM SAG AND OTHER GULF STATES.

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